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ABSTRACT

This collection of stories from a teacher's classroom highlights the problem-solving potential of very young students if they are engaged and challenged from the beginning. Arranged by month of the school year, each of these 10 stories is a suggestion for a classroom lesson. Together the stories provide a comprehensive picture of what can be accomplished with young students: making sense of math is the focus of the teaching, and respecting children's thinking makes it possible. Among the themes recurring throughout the stories are the distinction between academic and intellectual goals, the real meaning of a "community of learners," the ability of even very young children to persist until they have resolved problems, and how teachers can satisfy National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) principles and standards in mathematics while addressing children's needs and capabilities. At the end of each story is a section that focuses on the math involved and the mathematical reasoning of children. (MM)

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